

Cont
AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/485,320

B1
ent
essential ingredients, whereas said strain is selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus intermedius* and *Streptococcus constellatus*.

B2
Claim 3. (Amended) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the strain of microorganism capable of metabolizing daidzein to equol is at least one member selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus* E-23-17, which has been deposited as FERM BP-6436, and *Streptococcus* A6G-225, which has been deposited as FERM BP-6437.

B3
Claim 9. (Amended) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a food composition.

B3
Claim 10. (Amended) The composition according to Claim 9 wherein the food is selected from the group consisting of a drink, dairy product, and fermented milk, or said composition is in the form selected from the group consisting of a bar, granule, powder, capsule, and tablet.

Claim 11. (Amended) The composition according to Claim 1, which is in a pharmaceutical dosage form. *ly?*

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 8, 2000, and to provide Applicants with an initialed Form-1449 with respect to the same. *X*

Furthermore, Applicants note that in the Notification of Acceptance of Application under 35 U.S.C. § 371, the Examiner acknowledges receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. However, the Examiner has not acknowledged receipt of *?*